

## LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGES 8 AND 11

### BRITISH WHIPPED BY THE BOERS

Disastrous Failure of Attempt to Surprise Free State Camp.

#### HEAVY BRITISH LOSSES

One-Fifth of Attacking Force Killed, Wounded or Missing—London Apprehensive of Dutch Colonists Rising—Recent Victories May Draw Wavering Farmers to Boer Standard—British Garrison at Ladysmith on Short Rations.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.) London, Dec. 11.—Upon the heels of Sunday's news of the gallant sortie from Ladysmith this morning comes intelligence of the practical defeat of General Sir W. F. Gatacre in his first engagement with the Boers.

While this latter reverse, though serious enough, is regarded as only a momentary check, still its effect upon the morale of the Boers and the minds of the wavering Dutch farmers in Cape Colony, will undoubtedly render the task of the British much more difficult and drawn out.

General Gatacre, moving out Saturday with three thousand men and two batteries of artillery from Putter's Kraal in the hope of surprising the Boers at Stormberg, was misled by his guides and found himself in an untenable position, with the result that he was obliged to retire with severe losses upon Molteno.

He reports over six hundred and thirty officers and men missing, in addition to a small list of killed and wounded.

This intelligence has been received with the greatest apprehension here, and is especially deplored because of the effect it is likely to have on the Dutch in the north of Cape Colony.

Reinforcements will doubtless be sent up with all speed to make General Gatacre's position secure, but the fact that he has gravely underestimated the strength of the Boers opposed to him is responsible for a feeling of considerable uneasiness as to the immediate future of the campaign in that section of the country.

#### OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.

London, December 11.—The War Office publishes the following dispatch from General Forester-Walker, at Cape Town:

Gatacre reports:—Deeply regret to inform you that I met with a serious reverse in the attack on Stormberg.

I was misled as to the enemy's position by the guides and found impracticable ground.

Casualties, so far as known at present, are:

Second Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles—Wounded: Lieutenant Colonel Eager, Major Sinton, Captain Bell, Captain Kelly, Lieutenant Stephens, Lieutenant Harnden.

Suffolk Regiment—Wounded: Second Lieutenant Maynard, twelve men.

Missing—Captain Lieutenant Christie, Second Lieutenant Rodney, two hundred and ninety men.

Seventy-fourth Field Battery—Severely wounded: Lieutenant Lewis, three men.

Slightly Wounded—Two men.

Seventy-seventh Field Battery—Killed: One gunner.

Wounded—Major Perceval.

Lorimerbund Fusiliers—Missing: Major Stevens, Captain Morley, Captain Fletcher, Second Lieutenant Coulson, Second Lieutenant Wake, Lieutenant Radcliffe, three hundred and six non-commissioned officers and men.

Royal Berkshire Regiment—Killed: One private.

The remainder of my casualties will be wired as soon as ascertained.

#### A HOT FIRE WITH LYDDITE.

Modder River, Cape Colony, Sunday evening, December 10.—The naval 4.7 inch gun again took up a position north of the camp this afternoon, while the Howitzer battery was posted southeast on the left of the Boers. Both opened a hot fire with lyddite shells and shrapnel, to which the Boers sharply replied with a dozen guns, thus unmasking their position, which was the object of the British manoeuvre. After an hour's firing the Boer guns were silenced, the Howitzers searched the trenches and then threw shell after shell upon the hills, the explosion of the lyddite causing the whole ground over an extensive area to rise in the air in dense brown clouds.

#### THE NEXT FIGHT.

It now appears that the Boers intend that the next fight is to take place at Magersfontein. Apparently Spynfontein is not defended or the Boers are unwilling to unmask their position there, as the replies to the British artillery were all from guns at Magersfontein.

#### NUMBER PRISONERS CAPTURED.

Preoria, Dec. 11.—Six hundred and seventy-two British prisoners taken at Stormberg.

In the fighting at Modder River yesterday evening, General Cronje maintained his position and captured fifty British soldiers.

#### GUNS TAKEN.

Pretoria, Dec. 11.—(Via Lourenzo Marques)—The Boers captured three British guns in the engagement with General Gatacre's force at Stormberg. The sortie at Kimberley last Saturday was an attempt to take the Boer position at Kamperdam and to secure the waterworks. All the British shots fell short.

#### ON HALF RATIONS.

Lourenzo Marques, Dec. 11.—The following dispatch has been received from the Boer laager near Ladysmith:

"Several Kafir runners from Ladysmith to Estcourt have been captured. They received from (pounds) 15 to (pounds) 10 for the trip. The intercepted messages show that men and horses in Ladysmith are now on half rations, that whiskey is (pounds) 1 a bottle and that beer is exhausted."

Mafeking, Nov. 30.—(Via Lourenzo Marques, Dec. 11.—Sorties by the British armored train and Boer shelling of the town continue. The British have had but few casualties. Last evening the Protectorate Regiment managed to occupy an outpost where the British Lee-Melfords could reach the enemy's big gun, and the result was that the effectiveness of the Boer fire was materially reduced.

London, December 12.—4:40 a. m.—No further news has been received to remove the mystery overhanging General Gatacre's retreat from Stormberg. He has not yet forwarded the promised additional message, and the censorship has prevented the correspondents from explaining the matter. While it appears to be generally admitted that General Gatacre is inclined to overwork his men, Lord Durham's remarks are considered as in rather bad taste. Until General Gatacre has given his explanation it is felt that considerable allowance must be made for the extreme difficulty of getting intelligence in a country whose inhabitants are in strong sympathy with the enemy.

#### IMPREGNABLE POSITION.

Stormberg is described as a stronger position than Laings Nek. The only road winds through lofty hills and

### INVESTIGATION OF LEE CAMP

The Senate Appoints Committee to Investigate Charges of Vets.

#### SENATOR AFTER TRUSTS

A Bill to Regulate Evidence in Suits Upon Insurance Companies—Appointments of School Superintendents Confirmed—After Men Who Carry Pistols Illegally—Pink Butler—Editor George O. Greene After Labor Commissionership.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Dec. 11.—The Senate this morning, by a unanimous vote, passed a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to investigate charges made by certain veterans of Lee Camp Soldiers' Home that the inmates of that institution are improperly treated. The committee will be given every facility by the Soldiers' Home Board, some of whom are anxious that the State shall assume its management.

Several of the veterans who signed the petition asking for an investigation

### THE CURRENCY BILL DEBATED

A Western Democratic Representative Sounds Note of Warning.

#### UNLAWFUL USURPATION

A Georgia Congressman Declares That if Gold Was Now the Existing Standard, It Was so by Unlawful Usurpation of Executive Officers of the Government—How the Democrats Were Overborne in 1896.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, December 11.—The feature of the opening day of the debate on the currency bill in the House was the speech of Mr. Dolliver, of Iowa. It was characterized by all the wit and eloquence for which the Iowa is noted, and held the members without regard to party for over an hour. Mr. Dolliver declared that the last doubt in the Republican party as to the wisdom of enacting the gold standard into law had been resolved by the experience of the business world during the past three years.

Mr. De Armond, Missouri, was the

reelty no measure had been presented to Congress in half a century fraught with so much importance to the country. He referred to former Speaker Reed's New York speech, in which he advised the immediate enactment of gold-standard legislation before some branch of the Government got away from the Republican party. The "faithful," said he, "understand that this legislation must be enacted at once or not at all." Mr. Maddox then proceeded with a detailed analysis of the bill. The enactment of gold-standard legislation, he declared, had never been an issue before the people. If gold was now the "existing standard," he contended, it was so by the unlawful usurpation of the executive officers of the Government.

#### THE CONSEQUENCES.

Facility for raising the Treasury under the bill, he said, had never been hitherto equalled. It would convert every obligation of the Treasury into a gold obligation and would compel the Government to sell millions of gold bonds to the amount of 25 per cent. of all the outstanding notes of whatever character. He argued that under the bill banks with \$1,000,000 capital, now required to deposit bonds equal to a third of their capital in the Treasury were only required to deposit \$50,000 in bonds, enabling the banks, he declared, to contract the currency at will. He took up the Republican platform of 1896 to show that every Republican who now advocated the gold standard was an apostate. He had read at the clerk's desk the speeches of some of the Republican leaders in 1897 declaring that the Republicans were for international bimetalism.

#### THE BILL DEFENDED.

At the conclusion of Mr. Maddox's remarks Mr. Dolliver (Iowa) took the floor.

"There is something about the pursuit of the science of money," he said, "that enables every one of its students to comprehend his own ideas without being very hospitable toward the ideas of others. (Laughter.) This was a bill to set at rest all doubt as to the standard in this country. It should be presented to the business men of the country, as a Christmas gift." Mr. Dolliver said he did not want his record and past follies to be brought up against him. He had voted for the Sherman act in 1890, an act which he now regarded as a piece of unutterable stupidity. In 1896 the cry of Bryan, he said, was for more money. Money was scarce. It was hoarded. The day after the election it came out from its hiding.

"Are you willing now," interrupted Mr. Sims (Tennessee), that the mint should be opened to silver if an international agreement could be obtained?" "No, sir," replied Mr. Dolliver. "I have had my last whirl with silver. I have been humbugged for the last time."

Mr. McClellan, New York, opposed the bill. "I do not wish it understood," he said, "that I advocated the present system of bank note currency. The first direct consequence of the enactment of this appeal will be a very great rise in the market price of government bonds."

"The substitution of the word gold for the word 'coin' would result in an unearned bonus of over \$60,000,000 to the holders of the loan of 1895 alone."

#### SOME PLAIN TRUTHS.

Mr. De Armond, Missouri, followed in opposition to the bill. Replying to Mr. Dolliver he said the Democrats had not been overborne in 1896 in the conflict of reason, but the Republican party had won by summoning to their aid the corrupt and tremendous power of money and corporations. He charged the Republicans with deceiving the people in 1896. They were bimetalists then. If they were honest then they must be dishonest now; if honest now dishonest then. The change of the bonds, he said, would make a free gift of \$100,000,000 to the bondholders.

Mr. Green, Pennsylvania, then announced the death of his colleague, the late Representative Brimontout, of Pennsylvania, and at 5:05 as a further mark of respect the House adjourned.

#### SYMPATHY FOR THE BOERS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—An appeal by Mr. Mason (Illinois) for an expression of sympathy for the Transvaal Republic in its war with Great Britain was the feature of the Senate proceedings to-day. It was the first formal address delivered in the Senate this session, and was listened to with thoughtful attention by the members, and by a large gallery of auditors. The resolution upon which Mr. Mason based his speech was referred, at the conclusion of the address, to the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Lodge (Mass.) considering it to be delicate a question, in view of the position of this Government, to pass upon without serious consideration.

#### PENSION TO FREEDMEN.

Mr. Cockrell, Missouri, directed the attention of the Pension Committee to a bill introduced by request of Mr. Pettus, Alabama, providing for the payment of a pension to freedmen.

Mr. Gallinger, chairman of the Committee on Pensions, expressed the opinion that no such measure should have been presented to Congress. He read a certificate of membership in "The Ex-Slave and Pension Association," showing that the members were required to pay 25 cents membership fee and 10 cents a month to be used as a fund to secure the passage of the bill.

"In my judgment," said Mr. Gallinger, "this is a bill that ought not to be and probably will not receive the favorable consideration of the Pension Committee. The promoters of the bill are deluding thousands of poor people and are simply trying to keep this agitation alive for their own benefit."

Mr. Cockrell believed it would not do to let the bill slumber in the committee room. He urged that it be reported back adversely as soon as possible.

After the bill had been adverted to briefly by Mr. Hoar and others, it was referred to the Pension Committee.

At 3:05 p. m. the Senate went into executive session.

At 3:25 the Senate resumed business in open session. A message was presented from the House, announcing the death of Representative Samuel Baird, of Louisiana.

### LABOR LEADERS IN CONVENTION

A Total Federation Membership of Eight Hundred Thousand.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Samuel Gompers, in His Annual Address, Charges Mr. McKinley With Aiming to Erect a Throne of Despotism Upon the Tomb of Freedom—Gratifying Growth in Trade Unionism in the Past Year.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 11.—Nearly 200 delegates, representing all branches of trade unionism, with an estimated total membership of nearly 500,000, were seated at writing tables scattered over the floor of Harmon Hall to-day when the nineteenth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor was called to order. In the absence of both President Gompers and Vice-President McGuire, the gathering was called to order by James Duncan, of Baltimore, second vice-president. Mr. Duncan announced that Mr. Gompers was still suffering severely from a dislocated knee and other injuries resulting from a recent wagon and street car collision in Washington, and possibly might not be able to attend the convention.

After adoption of a resolution of sympathy for President Gompers, the annual report of President Duncan was read by Vice-President Duncan. It discussed the labor question at length. In reference to the administration's policy in the Philippines it said:

#### THE PHILIPPINES.

The principle of self-government is being denied the Philippines. Some have said the Philippines are incapable of self-government. This is the same charge made against every people who have ever endeavored to achieve independence and establish self-government. The people there are entitled to the right to institute a government of their own choosing, the highest or best form of government that they can institute and maintain, and to institute it, too, without let or hindrance on the part of any nation, much less our nation, the Republic of the United States, on whose foundation stone is carved in immutable letters the declaration that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed."

When the treaty of peace between Spain and the United States was under consideration in the United States Senate, every effort was made by our imperialists and expansionists to secure its ratification. Coercion and threats of the most far-reaching character were employed to change the votes of some Senators from opposition to, to approval of, the treaty. The fallacious argument then advanced was that unless the treaty was signed we would still be at war with Spain—as if Spain were longer able to contend against us. It was urged that the form of the government, and the disposition of the former Spanish possessions could be disposed of later. Now that the treaty has been ratified, and ratified by questionable means and methods, it is declared that these islands have come to us "by solemn treaty," and that we are bound to take possession of them and govern them as we may deem best.

#### THE TOMB OF FREEDOM.

The question of these islands and the peoples therein, the principles involved, the interests at stake, are of vital moment to us and to them; but beneath it all there is the purpose of those who have lost faith in the principles of our Republic, and who have no confidence in, or reliance upon, the honor, honesty, and stability of our people and our form of government, and who aim to erect a throne of despotism upon the tomb of freedom, whose initiatory step is a large standing army, and who, with milliamian rampart, hope to crush out the memory of, and the aspiration for, true liberty and freedom for all our people.

#### STATISTICS.

The report of the Credentials Committee announced that the brewery workers and the stationary engineers had each withdrawn their protests against the others being seated, and had expressed willingness that their troubles go to the Committee on Grievances.

The reports of Frank Morrison, secretary, and John B. Lennon, treasurer, were read. The former gave the following interesting statistics:

The receipts show an increase of \$17,862.98 over that of last year. Of the foregoing increase \$5,220.61 was received from the two-cent assessment levied by the last convention to defray expenses of organizers in the Southern and Inter-Mountain States.

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#### OTHER LOCAL ON PAGE 8.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

##### BY DEPARTMENTS.

Telegraph News—Pages 1, 8 and 11.  
Local News—Pages 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11.  
Editorial—Page 4.  
Virginia News—Page 8.  
North Carolina News—Page 7.  
Portsmouth News—Pages 10 and 11.  
Berkley News—Page 12.  
Markets—Page 12.  
Shipping—Page 9.  
Real Estate—Page 12.



THE FIFTH LANCERS AND THEIR "PIG STICKING" CHARGE AT ELANDSLAAGTE.

flanking is impossible. Colesberg is also said to be an almost impregnable position, and as no troops are available to reinforce the columns acting in those directions, it becomes evident that General Gatacre's misfortune or error will delay the invasion of the Free State, perhaps, some weeks. It is probable that he will be compelled to retire on Queenstown and to wait for reinforcements which can hardly reach him until Sir Charles Warren's division arrives at the Cape. The first detachment will sail Saturday next. Even if General French is not compelled to retreat he will be obliged to pause in his advance.

It now seems certain that the Seventh Division, which is being mobilized at Aldershot, will also be sent to South Africa.

#### ENGLAND'S HEAVY LOSS.

No news has yet been received confirming the Boer report of the capture of fifty prisoners at Modder River from Lord Methuen's column. It is just two months since the Transvaal ultimatum was delivered. Nine engagements have been fought and the British have lost five hundred and sixty-six killed, two thousand and twenty-seven wounded and nineteen hundred and seventy-seven missing or prisoners.

The War Office has issued a notice that after January 1st a deduction will be made from the pay of soldiers serving in South Africa—in the case of private 4 pence per day, for wives, and a penny for each child; in the case of sergeants, 8 pence for wives and 2 pence for each child. These sums have thus far been paid by the Government. The order indicates the belief that the campaign will be a long one.

#### BRITISH ADVANCING.

Details are expected from the Boer outposts in the direction of Modder River. There is a report that the British are advancing on the plain, and heavy fighting is anticipated. General Prins Loo and General Cronje command the Boer forces.

were at the Capitol to-day, and stated that they have been punished for the part they had taken by the Home authorities, being compelled to go out in the field and cut turnip tops.

#### ANTI-TRUST.

Senator W. P. Barksdale, of Halifax, to-day offered his bill to prohibit pools, trusts, monopolies and conspiracies to control business and prices of articles, to prevent the formation or operation of pools, trusts and combinations of charters of corporations that violate the terms of this act, and to authorize the institution of prosecutions and suits therefor.

The bill is modeled after the Texas law.

#### INSURANCE POLICIES.

Senator Claytor offered a bill in relation to the effect of evidence in suits upon insurance policies as to immaterial allegations in the policy. This measure provides that no answer to interrogatories made by an applicant for a policy shall bar the right to recover or be used as evidence unless it is clearly provided that such an answer was wilfully false or that it is material and induced the company to issue the policy and that but for such answer the policy would not have been issued, and that the agent had no knowledge of the falsity of the answer.

#### DELINQUENT LANDS.

Senator Jeffries introduced a bill to re-enact section 664 of the Code, in relation to delinquent lands purchased by the Commonwealth. It provided for the reduction of interest from 10 to 6 per cent. Senator Morris objected, as the Supreme Court was now considering the point. The bill went over.

#### APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED.

The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the appointment of the following school superintendents: L. E. Wood, of Bath; Peter I. Cowles, of James City, and L. M. Smith, of Spotsylvania.

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